

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 14 without prejudice, amend claims 1, 8 and 17 and add claim 28 to 38 as follows:

1.(currently amended) An absorber pipe, especially for a parabolic collector in a solar heat collecting apparatus, said absorber pipe comprising a central metal pipe (3), a glass sleeve tube (2) surrounding said central metal pipe (3) so that an annular space (4) is formed between the central metal pipe and the glass sleeve tube (2) ~~tubular sleeve~~, a glass-metal transitional element (5) arranged on a free end of the glass ~~tubular sleeve~~ tube and at least one expansion compensating device (10) connecting the central metal pipe (3) and the glass-metal transitional element (5) with each other so as to be slidable relative to each other in a longitudinal direction;

wherein said at least one expansion compensating device (10) is arranged under the glass-metal transitional element (5) and at least partially within in said annular space (4) and between said central metal pipe (3) and said glass-metal transitional element (5).

2.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one expansion compensating device (10) comprises a folding bellows (11).

3.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 2, wherein an interior end (12) of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the metal pipe (3)

with a connecting element (15) and an outer end (13) of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the glass sleeve tube (2) by the glass-metal transitional element (5).

4.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 3, wherein the connecting element (15) extends from said interior end (12) of the folding bellows (11) through a first circular space (5) formed between the folding bellows (11) and the metal pipe (3).

5.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 3, wherein the connecting element (15) extends into the vicinity of the outer end (13) of the folding bellow (11).

6.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 4, wherein the connecting element (15) has a circular disk (16) attached to the folding bellows (11) and said circular disk (16) goes or changes over into a conical or cylindrical pipe-shaped section (17,18') extending through the first circular space (5).

7.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 3, wherein the connecting element (15) is provided at least partially with a mirrored surface on a side facing said central metal pipe (3).

8.(currently amended) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 2, wherein an interior end (12) of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the sleeve tube (2) by a connecting element (15') and by said a-glass-metal transitional element (5) and an outer end (13) of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the metal pipe (3).

9.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 8, wherein the connecting element (15') extends from said interior end (12) of the folding bellows (11) through a second circular space (9) formed between the folding bellows (11) and the sleeve tube (2).

10.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 9, wherein said connecting element (15') extends beyond said outer end (13) of the folding bellows (11).

11.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 9, wherein said connecting element (15') has a circular disk (16) attached to said folding bellows (11) and said circular disk (16) goes over into a pipe-shaped cylindrical section (18) extending through said second circular space (9).

12.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 8, wherein said glass-metal transitional element (5) is attached to an outer collar (19) formed on said connecting element (15').

13. (previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 8, wherein the folding bellows (11) is provided with a mirror surface at least partially covering a side facing said metal pipe (3).

Claim 14.(canceled)

15.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 1, wherein said annular space (4) is evacuated.

16.(previously presented) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 1, wherein said annular space (4) is filled with a noble gas.

17.(currently amended) A parabolic collector for a solar heat collecting apparatus, said parabolic collector comprising a longitudinally extending linear parabolic reflector (PR) having a focal line (FL) and at least one absorber pipe (1) arranged along said focal line;

wherein said at least one absorber pipe (1) comprises a central metal pipe (3), a glass sleeve tube (2) surrounding said central metal pipe (3) so that an annular space (4) is formed between the central metal pipe and the glass tubular sleeve tube (2), a glass-metal transitional element (5) arranged on a free end of the glass tubular-sleeve tube and at least one expansion compensating device (10) connecting the central metal pipe (3) and the glass-metal transitional

element (5) with each other so as to be slid able relative to each other in a longitudinal direction;

wherein said at least one expansion compensating device (10) is arranged under the glass-metal transitional element (5) and at least partially within in the annular space (4) and between said central metal pipe (3) and said glass-metal transitional element (5).

18.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 17, wherein said at least one expansion compensating device (10) comprises a folding bellows (11).

19.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 18, wherein an interior end (12) of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the metal pipe (3) with a connecting element (15) and an outer end (13) of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the glass sleeve tube (2) by the glass-metal transitional element (5).

20.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 19, wherein the connecting element (15) extends from said interior end (12) of the folding bellows (11) through a first circular space (5) between the folding bellows (11) and the metal pipe (3).

21.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 19, wherein the connecting element (15) extends into the vicinity of the outer end (13) of the folding bellows (11).

22.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 20, wherein the connecting element (15) has a circular disk (16) attached to the folding bellows (11), which goes over into a conical or cylindrical pipe-shaped section (17, 18') extending through the first circular space (5).

23.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 19, wherein the connecting element (15) is provided at least partially with a mirror surface on a side facing said central metal pipe (3).

24.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 18, wherein an interior end (12) of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the sleeve tube (2) by a connecting element (15') and a glass-metal transitional element (5) and an outer end (13) of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the metal pipe (3).

25.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 24, wherein the connecting element (15') extends from said interior end (12) of the folding bellows (11) through a second circular space (9) formed between the folding bellows (11) and the glass sleeve tube (2).

26.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 25, wherein said connecting element (15') extends beyond said outer end (13) of the folding bellows (11).

27.(previously presented) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 25, wherein said connecting element (15') has a circular disk (16) attached to said folding bellows (11) and said circular disk (16) goes over into a pipe-shaped cylindrical section (18) extending through said second circular space (9).

28.(new) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 24, wherein said glass-metal transitional element (5) is attached to an outer collar (19) formed on said connecting element (15').

29.(new) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 24, wherein the folding bellows (11) is provided with a mirror surface at least partially covering a side facing said metal pipe (3).

30.(new) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 17, wherein said annular space (4) is evacuated.

31.(new) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 17, wherein said annular space (4) is filled with a noble gas.

32.(new) An absorber pipe, especially for a parabolic collector in a solar heat collecting apparatus, said absorber pipe comprising a central metal pipe (3), a glass sleeve tube (2) surrounding said central metal pipe (3) so that an annular space (4) is formed between the central metal pipe and the glass sleeve tube (2), respective glass-metal transitional elements (5) arranged on opposite ends of the glass sleeve tube and corresponding expansion compensating devices (10) connecting the central metal pipe (3) and the respective glass-metal transitional elements (5) on the opposite ends of the glass sleeve tube with each other so that the central metal pipe and the glass sleeve tube are slidable relative to each other in a longitudinal direction;

wherein said corresponding expansion compensating devices (10) are arranged under the respective glass-metal transitional elements (5) and at least partially within said annular space (4) and between said central metal pipe (3) and said glass-metal transitional elements (5).

33.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 32, wherein said corresponding expansion compensating devices (10) comprise respective folding bellows (11).

34.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 33, wherein corresponding interior ends (12) of the respective folding bellows (11) are connected with the central metal pipe (3) with the corresponding connecting elements (15) and corresponding outer ends (13) of the respective folding bellows (11) are

connected with the glass sleeve tube (2) by the respective glass-metal transitional elements (5).

35.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 34, wherein the corresponding connecting elements (15) extend from said corresponding interior ends (12) of the respective folding bellows (11) through first circular spaces (5) between the respective folding bellows (11) and the metal pipe (3) and the corresponding connecting elements (15) extend into the vicinity of the respective outer ends (13) of the respective folding bellows (11).

36.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 34, wherein the corresponding connecting elements (15) are provided at least partially with mirror surfaces facing said central metal pipe (3).

37.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 32, wherein said annular space (4) is evacuated.

38.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 32, wherein said annular space (4) is filled with a noble gas.